

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A live *Plasmodium* organism that is genetically engineered to disrupt a liver-stage-specific gene function.
2. A method for inoculating a vertebrate host against malaria, by administering to the host a live *Plasmodium* organism that is genetically engineered to disrupt a liver-stage-specific gene function.
3. A vaccine composition comprising a live *Plasmodium* organism that is genetically engineered to disrupt a liver-stage-specific gene function.
4. Use as a malaria vaccine of a live *Plasmodium* organism that is genetically engineered to disrupt a liver-stage-specific gene function.
5. A method of producing a vaccine composition, by suspending in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier solution a live *Plasmodium* organism that is genetically engineered to disrupt a liver-stage-specific gene function.